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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-32

JULY 12, 1945

## CORN GOT A POOR START

Early corn prospect not up to recent years. July 1 forecast under 2.7 billion bushels. Corn acreage 924 million acres, about 5% under last year. Indicated crop this year, although less than past three years, would be about 10% above 10-year average (which includes 2 drought years). Corn planting was very late and early weather unfavorable.

## BUMPER WHEAT CROP

Wheat still looks like over billion bushel crop—July 1 estimate 1,129 million bushels, 50 million over last year, which was previous record crop. Ten year average (1934-43) was 789 million bushels. Winter wheat estimated 834 million bushels; spring wheat, 295 million bushels.

## BIG OATS CROP

Oats crop indicated largest since 1920. Forecast is 1,419 million bushels, 22 percent above last year and 33 percent above average.

Farm stocks of oats July 1 were 211 million bushels, 14 percent more than year previous.

Barley crop comparatively small. Estimate 256 million bushels, 10 percent below last year and 7 percent below average.

## SOYBEAN ACREAGE DOWN SLIGHTLY

Soybean acreage 134 million acres, grown for all purposes, 2 percent below last year but 46 percent above average. Planting was delayed by late, wet spring. First forecast of production will be made in August.

Stocks of soybeans on farms July 1 were low, 7,749,000 bushels, compared with nearly 11 million previous year and nearly 14 million 2 years previous.

## SMALLEST APPLE CROP

Commercial apple crop very small, July 1 forecast approximately 70 million bushels, which would be a record low output, 21 percent below the small crop of 1943. Crop is very poor in East and Middle West. The 10-year average commercial apple crop was 119 million bushels.

## BIG PEACH CROP

Peach crop estimated 80.4 million bushels, a record high; compares with 77.8 million, the previous record in 1931. Crop last year was slightly over 76 million bushels and 10-year average is 574 million bushels. Southern crop is a record high; also good in

the west, but short in Middle Atlantic States.

## GOOD POTATO PROSPECT

Potato forecast 408 million bushels, compared with 379 million last year, and average of 375 million. Only three times before has potato crop exceeded this year's prospect.

Sweet potato crop forecast 64 million bushels, 11 percent below last year and 4 percent below average.

## GOOD TOBACCO PROSPECT

Tobacco acreage largest since 1939—1.8 million acres, compared with 2 million acres in 1939. Tobacco crop this year forecast at 1,890 million pounds, 3 percent below last year but 36 percent above average (1934-43).

Flue-cured estimated that 1,091 million pounds, about like last year and about 38 percent above average. Burley forecast 552 million pounds, which would be second largest burley crop (last year was largest).

## RAINS MADE GRASS

Total hay crop estimated about 101 million tons. This would be second largest hay crop ever grown. Tame hay estimated nearly 88 million tons; wild hay nearly 134 million tons (latter cut chiefly in the Dakotas and Nebraska).

## COTTON ACREAGE DOWN

Estimate of cotton acreage July 1 was 18,355,000 acres, or 9.8 percent less than last year. The acreage in cultivation July 1 last year was 20,354,000 and the 10-year average (1934-43) cotton acreage in cultivation, July 1, was 26,359,000 acres.

## RECORD MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production in June estimated 13.2 billion pounds; in May 12.6 billion pounds. June production

was more than one-half billion pounds above any previous month and 15 percent above 1934-43 June average. In first 6 months of this year, milk production totaled 64.1 billion pounds, almost 24 billion above like period last year, which was previous record. Prospect is that 1945 milk output will be well above previous record of 119.2 billion pounds in 1942.

Creamery butter production in April was running 6 percent below last year. Butter output first 4 months was at an annual rate of about 1,450 million pounds. It is expected that in latter half of year, however, butter production will equal like months of 1944. Butter in

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	MAY 15 1945	JUNE 15 1945	JUNE 15 1945
Wheat, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.49	1.50	1.53
Corn, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.08	1.11	1.11
Oats, bu. . . . .	dol. .70	.67	.69
Cotton, lb. . . . .	ct. 20.51	20.90	21.45
Potatoes, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.77	1.80	1.25
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 14.10	14.10	12.60
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 12.90	12.90	9.38
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 13.90	13.80	11.70
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 13.50	13.40	10.20
Butterfat, lb. . . . .	ct. 50.2	50.2	<sup>1</sup> 41.7
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 3.08	3.04	<sup>1</sup> 2.47
Chickens, live, lb. . . . .	ct. 26.6	27.5	19.7
Eggs, doz. . . . .	ct. 33.7	35.8	<sup>1</sup> 32.0

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.



cold storage May 1 was 45 million pounds, compared with 59.3 million pounds year previous. Of storage stock, Government held 21.6 million pounds. Stock of cheese in cold storage May 1 was 108 million pounds, of which Government held 42 million pounds.

#### JUNE PIG SURVEY

Number *sows* farrowed for spring pig crop of 1945 was 8,204,000, compared with 9,187,000 in spring of 1944. Number pigs saved per litter 6.30, compared with 6.03 year before. Total *spring* (1945) pig crop 51,687,000, compared with 55,428,000 spring before, a decrease of 7 percent. Pig crop of last *fall* was 31,325,000. Total 1945 pig crop forecast 86,987,000, which would compare with 86,753,000 pigs produced in 1944.

#### MORE YOUNG CHICKENS

Number chicks and young chickens July 1 was 656 million, compared with 591 million year ago, an 11 percent increase. Number of hens and pullets at end of this year should about equal same at end of last year. Commercial hatchery operations during May were 30 percent above year previous, many chicks presumably going for broilers. Rapid increase of chicks through spring has made basis for replenishing flocks.

Hens laid 5,295 million *eggs* during June, 3 percent under year ago but 30 percent above 1934-43 average. Egg production first 6 months this year 33,755 million eggs, 6 percent below last year's record but 36 percent above average. Average price received by farmers of U. S. in mid-June 35.8 cents a dozen, compared with 28.1 cents year before. Commercial stocks of shell eggs in storage June 1 were 4 million cases, lowest on record that date.

Output of *turkey* meat this year probably will be at least 10 percent above last year's figure of 547 million pounds.

#### FARM HELP SCARCE - WAGES AT PEAK

Number of workers on farms June 1 was 10,994,000, about 2½ percent fewer than year previous. Number of *family* workers 8,637,000, off 2.4 percent from last year. Number *hired* workers 2,357,000, off 3.4 percent from last year.

Farm *wages* reached a new high June 1. Monthly wage without board, for the country as a whole, averaged \$93.10; daily wage without board averaged \$4.16. The general farm wage index on June 1 stood at 340 percent of the 1910-14 average. Farm wages generally have about doubled in three years.

#### FARM INCOME

Cash receipts from products sold during June amounted to approximately \$1,530 million, 5 percent

above May and slightly above June 1944. Cash receipts from crops in June about 10 percent above May; receipts from livestock and livestock products also slightly above May, instead of showing usual seasonal decline.

#### MARKETING CHARGES HIGHER

Charges for marketing a family market basket of farm food products increased from \$225 in April to \$235 in May, an increase of more than 4 percent and the sharpest since the spring of 1943. Government payments to marketing agencies increased from about \$17 in April to nearly \$18 in May.

Retail cost, to consumers, of the market basket rose from \$454 in April to \$460 in May.

The farmers' share of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products declined from 54 cents in April, to 53 cents in May. (The farmers' share stood at a record high of 55 cents back in January and December.)

#### FATAL ACCIDENTS ON FARMS

It is estimated by the National Safety Council that the number of fatal accidents in farm work are roughly 4,500 per year. Analysis of 7,851 fatal farm-work accidents, 1940-43, by this bureau, show two principal causes of such accidents - farm machinery accounted for 47 percent and handling of livestock 20 percent. (Miscellaneous causes 33 percent). Machinery accidents were highest in East North Central States, livestock accidents in Mountain States, Wisconsin reported highest number, 502 fatalities for the period, New York 456, Iowa 424, Pennsylvania 390, Ohio 372, Missouri 359, Minnesota 339, Illinois 327. July was the month of most accidents, January fewest. The age group having the most accidents was 60-69; the war-time employment of children is suggested in figure of 6 percent of fatalities among children under 10 years old and of these, 60 percent were accidents with machinery.

#### LESS SOAP THIS YEAR

Total use of fat materials, including rosin and secondary fats, used in making soap last year amounted to 2.5 billion pounds, 19 percent more than previous year and 4 percent above 1941, the previous peak. Supply of fats and oils available for civilian soap this year apparently will be about 15 percent less than last year. Use of rosin in civilian soap this year is limited to 25 percent of like months in 1944.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 - Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	JUNE 1945
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	206
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	173
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	119
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	167
Retail prices of food . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 179
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	340
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>2</sup> 429
RATIOS	LONG-TIME JUNE - AVERAGE	JUNE 1945
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . . .	11.2	12.7
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	22.1	26.2
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	1.11	1.26
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	10.6	12.4
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN. - MAY 1944	JAN. - MAY 1945
Milk, (Bil. lb.) . . . . .	49.2	50.9
Eggs, (Bil.) . . . . .	30.5	28.5
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . .	2,693	2,911
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	339	382
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . .	6,502	3,525
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	9,780	7,069

<sup>1</sup>May figure.

<sup>2</sup>Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. March figure.